

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 SSO-00 L-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INRE-00 INR-07 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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O R 161039Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4418

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4293

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 SUBPARA C SECOND LINE OMITTED)

FOR VANCE, S/NM AND DEP ASST SECRETARY MILLER, EA
BANGKOK FOR BENNETT, USAID/LAOS CSO

E.O. 11652:V GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECT - DETOXIFICATION CENTER
CONSTRUCTION

REF: A) VIENTIANE 4269 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 139335 (PARA 2)

1. WITHIN FYS 1973/4 NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECT, 439-11-799-084, FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$372,000 WERE OBLIGATED FOR CONSTRUCTING AND EQUIPING NEW DETOXIFICATION CENTER ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MAHOSOT HOSPITAL IN VIENTIANE. WITH THE DISSOLUTION OF USAID/LAOS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 30, 1975, HOWEVER, COMPLETION OF THIS PROJECT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT PASA ARRANGEMENTS.

2. ALL OTHER CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS VIA USAID/OICC/ CONTRACTOR ARRANGEMENT ARE IN PROCESS OF TERMINATION.

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ACTING USAID DIRECTOR MUST, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, INSTRUCT

HIS CONTRACTING OFFICER (NOW IN BANGKOK) TO INITIATE TERMINATION ACTIONS ON ALL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FUNDED WITH AID ALLOTMENTS. QUESTION THAT ARISES IS WHETHER WASHINGTON WISHES US TO MAKE SPECIFIC EXCEPTION IN THIS CASE TO GENERAL DECISION TO TERMINATE AID.

3. RELEVANT ADDITIONAL FACTORS:

A. FUNDS RECEIVED UNDER SECTION 482 OF FAA ARE NOT RESTRICTED BY ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THE ACT. THEREFORE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WE COULD -- LEGALLY AT LEAST -- CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SUCH FUNDS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER PGNU ACCEPTED CONDITIONS ON ORDERLY TRANSFER AS EMBODIED IN NOTE 293.

B. THE PROJECT IS ABOUT 15 PCT COMPLETED. IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE.

C. IN DECIDING ON THIS DETOX CENTER, IT MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED THAT USAID, IN ANOTHER PROJECT, HAS ALSO BEEN BUILDING, UNDER ANOTHER CONTRACT WITH OICC, A KITCHEN, DINING ROOM AND LAUNDRY ROOM ON THE MAHOSOT GROUNDS VERY NEAR THE DETOX CENTER SITE. THE PROJECT, WHICH IS ROUGHLY 72 PCT COMPLETED, WILL BE TERMINED PER PARA 2.

D. NEW MINISTER OF HEALTH, TIAO CHAISAVATH, WHO HAS BEEN AS COOPERATIVE WITH ACTING USAID DIRECTOR RAMSEY AS HE COULD UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, HAS BEEN PRESSING RAMSEY HARD FOR COMPLETION OF TWO PROJECTS.

E. WHOLE LAO ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN LAOS HAS LARGELY BEEN BROUGHT BY U.S. EFFORTS. DETOX CENTER IS LAST ELEMENT OF PROGRAM. IT HAS RECEIVED BROAD SUPPORT AMONG LAO, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA.

F. IF WE DO DECIDE TO PROCEED, WE SHALL NEED TO NEGOTIATE WITH PGNU AGREEMENT ON OICC SUPERVISION WHICH INCLSLES POSTING OICC OFFICER AT EMBASSY ON PERMANENT BASIS UNTIL COMPLETION OF DETOX CENTER CONSTRUCTION.

4. WE HAVE DIRECTED USAID CONTRACTING OFFICER TO HOLD TERMINATION ACTIONS ON THESE TWO PROJECTS UNTIL WE RECEIVE GUIDANCE FROM WASHINGTON. PRESSURES OF TIME -- AND MONEYS SPECT ON DELAY -- REQUIRE ANSWER ASAP OR AT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAST WITHIN 48 HOURS.

5. UNKNOWN FACTOR HERE IS WEIGHT WASHINGTON ATTACHES TO GIVING EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING EFFORTS IN ANTI-NARCOTICS FIELD. OUR LOCAL VIEW IS THAT, UNFORTUNATE THOUGH IT IS, BOTH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SHOULD BE TERMINATED. WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD START WITH CLEAN SLATE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH PGNU AND REBUILD FROM THERE.

TO CONTINUE THESE PROJECTS WILL REQUIRE DIFFICULT
NEGOTIATIONS ON SUPERVISION WHICH CAN ONLY FURTHER CON-
FUSE ALREADY MURKY ATMOSPHERE. TO CONTINUE ONLY DETOX
CENTER, AND NOT OTHER PROJECT AT MAHOSOT HOSPITALB WILL
BE VIEW AS ANOTHER INDICATION U.S. REALLY INTERESTED
IN ANTI-NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES.

6 WE HAVE DISCUSSED DETOX CENTER WITH UNFDAC REP,
ARNAUD, WHO STATED HIS ORGANIZATION WAS PREPARED TO
SUPPORT CENTER, BUT UNFDAC COULD NOT UNDERTAKE ACTUAL
CONSTRUCTION. HOWEVER, HE INDICATED THERE MIGHT BE
POSSIBILITY OF UNFDAC ASSUMING THIS RESPONSIBILITY IF
U.S. PROVIDED NECESSARY FUNDS TO UNFDAC IN GENEVA.

7. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE.
CHAPMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: TRSY AND OMB PLEASE TAKE AS ORIGINAL

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NNN

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